The Secretary further reported that two petitions on the Land Conservancy Regulation Amendment Bill had also been received, and that these were—

1. petition dated the 18th Kanni 1091, from the Vanjippuzha Chief, and
2. petition dated the 2nd Thulam 1091, from the Poonjat Chief.

The Council decided that those two petitions be put off for consideration at the meeting at which the Bill would be taken up for final reading.

## THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL REGULATION AMENDMENT BILL.

Mr. Parameswaren Pillai, who had given notice of a motion, which he proposed to bring forward before the Council, asking for leave to introduce a Bill to amend certain Sections of the Legislative Council Regulation, V of 1073, said that, on further consultation with his Non-official friends, he withdrew the motion.

## THE COPYRIGHT BILL.

Mr. Subba Aiyar, in introducing the Copyright Bill, pointed out that the existing Copyright Regulation was passed in 1039, *i. e.*, more than half a century ago, and that it had been based on the British Indian Act XX of 1847. He said that, in pursuance of the recommendations of an International Convention held at Berlin in 1908, and of those of the Imperial Conference of 1910, an Imperial Copyright Act was passed by the English Parliament in 1911, which Act had been adpoted for British India by Proclamation dated the 31st October 1912. Mr. Subba Aiyar added that the necessary modifications to the English Act were made by Act III of 1914 of the Supreme Legislative Council, and that the present Bill had been drafted on the lines of the English Act as modified by the above India Act, III of 1914. As the existing Copyright-Regulation did not provide for copyright in translations, photographs, sculpture and works of art generally, and as it was necessary to bring the law of copyright into conformity with modern requirements, Mr. Subba Aiyar moved that the principle of the Bill be affirmed.

Seconded by Mr. Vieyra.

Carried.

Mr. Subba Aiyar then moved that the Bill be referred to a Select Committee consisting of the Mover and Messrs. Vieyra, Rengaswami Aiyengar, Sesha Aiyar and Velu Pillai, to report within three months.

Seconded by Mr. Mahadeva Aiyar.

Carried.

## THE DESTRUCTIVE INSECTS AND PESTS BILL.

Mr. Subba Aiyar then introduced the Destructive Insects and Pests Bill, and said that it was thought desirable to have control over articles imported into Travancore which were likely to cause infection to crops. He said that it was doubtful whether a Notification under Section 18 of the Sea Customs Regulation, V of 1088, would adequately cover the cases proposed to be dealt with, and that hence the present Bill was drafted, on the lines of the corresponding British Indian Act, XI of 1914. Mr. Subba Aiyar therefore moved that the principle of the Bill be affirmed.

Seconded by Mr. Rengaswami Aiyengar.

Carried.

Mr. Subba Aiyar then proposed that the Bill be referred to a Select Committee consisting of Messrs. Vieyra, Sesha Aiyar, Richardson and the Mover, to report within two months.

Seconded by Mr. Subrahmanya Aiyar.

Carried.

## THE WEIGHTS AND MEASURES REGULATION AMENDMENT BILL.

Mr. Subba Aiyar next introduced the Weights and Measures Regulation Amendment Bill, and said that, under Sections 5 and 10 of the existing Regulation, fraud had to be established to render a person liable for punishment for the use of unauthorised and uncertified weights and measures in contravention of any Notification issued under Section 5. As the object of the Regulation was to enforce the adoption of a uniform system of weights and measures, Mr. Subba

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Aiyar urged that it was necessary to make the use of unauthorised weights and measures itself an offence without proof of fraud. He therefore moved that the principle of the Bill be affirmed.

Seconded by Mr. Mahadeva Aiyar.

Mr. Sesha Aiyar observed that, in his opinion, it would be dangerous on principle to constitute an act an offence when it had been done without wrongful intent or knowledge. Since *mens rea* had to be established in the case of all criminal acts, Mr. Sesha Aiyar said that it would be neither expedient nor consonant with justice to dispense with that requirement in the case of offences against the law relating to weights and measures.

Mr. Velu Pillai agreed in the view expressed by Mr. Sesha Aiyar, and said that the word "knowingly" occurring in the penal clause of the Regulation ought, in his opinion, to be retained.

Mr. Subba Aiyar replied that the cases of fraudulent use of weights and measures were covered by the provisions in the Penal Code relating to weights and measures, and that the question of *intention* should not at all arise in the case of offences under the Weights and Measures Regulation. He said that, in order to secure uniformity in the use of weights and measures throughout the State, some punishment, however light, had to be provided for their unauthorised use, apart from the question of intention.

The President observed that the Members were not divergent in opinion with regard to the principle of the Bill, *i. e.*, to amend the existing Regulation in such a way as to enable the Government to enforce the use of a uniform system of weights and measures, and suggested that the provisions of the amending Bill might be considered later on, its principle being then affirmed.

The Council resolved accordingly.

Mr. Subba Aiyar then moved that the Bill be referred to a Select Committee consisting of Messrs. Sesha Aiyar, Subrahmanya Aiyar, Richardson, Mahadeva Aiyar and the Mover, to report within two months.

Seconded by Mr. Vieyra.

Carried.

## THE CHRISTIAN SUCCESSION BILL.

Mr. Subba Aiyar, in presenting the report of the Select Committee on the Christian Succession Bill, said as follows:—

"Sir,

I beg to present the report of the Select Committee on the Christian Succession Bill. The report of the Select Committee explains at some length the reasons for making the modifications proposed by them. Yet, I shall make a few remarks concerning some of the provisions of the Bill.

While introducing the Bill on the 5th June 1913, I have explained at some length the various provisions of the same. Since then, representations have been received, some supporting the Bill, and the others objecting to some of the provisions of the Bill. The Christians other than the Syrians approve of the Bill. A large meeting of the Latin Christians of Central Travancore was held on the 15th February 1914, and a memorial has been submitted to Government. In the memorial, they urge that "in framing the draft Bill the Committee have adopted the policy of 'give and take' by which each section has to sacrifice, for the sake of uniformity, a little of the less important customs. Examining this Bill in the light of this policy, we observe that we have *to give* more than we have to take. Yet we accept the Bill for the sake of an *All-Christian Law*".

We may then fairly take it that the Latin Christians are in entire accord with the Bill.

The deputation which waited upon the Dewan to present the above-said memorial say: — "We understand from the Christian Committee's report that there are certain other communities, such as Arasars and certain classes of Protestant Christians whose usages are exactly like ours. They also will, we are sure, be prepared to accept the present Bill. If public utterances and the opinions of prominent men belonging to any community are taken as guide, the South Travancore Christians also appear to be willing to accept the present Bill as a workable compromise." No opposition has been raised by any of the above-said communities. Mr. P. Sathianesan who has submitted a representation also approves of the main provisions of the Bill. Thus then, it may be fairly taken that all the communities affected by the Bill excepting the Syrians approve the Bill.

As for the Syrian Christians, some are for the Bill as originally framed, and others are against many of the provisions.

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